



STATE OF DELAWARE
STATE FIRE PREVENTION COMMISSION
DELAWARE FIRE SERVICE CENTER

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1463 CHESTNUT GROVE ROAD
DOVER, DELAWARE 19904

STATE FIRE PREVENTION COMMISSION

Monthly Meeting

October 15, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT

David Roberts, Chairman
Alan Robinson, Jr., Vice Chairman
Ron Marvel
Lynn Truitt
William C. Kelly
Joseph J. Leonetti, Sr.
Bill Betts

ALSO PRESENT

Joseph C. Handlon, Deputy Attorney General
Patrick Matthews, BLS Medical Director
Sherry Lambertson, Executive Assistant
David J. Truax, Investigator/Compliance Officer
Grover P. Ingle, State Fire Marshal
Robert P. Newnam, Director, State Fire School

GUESTS

Jay Jones, DVFA
Tom Dicristofaro, DVFA
Robin Brown, OEMS
Bradley M. Gosch, Smyrna American Legion
Mark Harris, Claymont Fire Company
Warren Jones, DVFA
Nicholas Baronie, Mill Creek Fire Co.
Anthony Spiezio, DTI
Albert Schrack, DSEMSA

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Roberts called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

REGULAR BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2019 COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

It was moved by Commissioner Truitt, and seconded by Commissioner Leonetti that the minutes of the September 17, 2019 Commission meeting be approved. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

REPORT OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Personnel Items

Fire Marshal Ingle reported that Deputy Fire Marshal I vacant position has been posted for Sussex County. To meet the needs of the agency, the position has been transferred from New Castle to Sussex County.

Deputy Fire Marshal IV Harry Miller has officially retired from his position. His last day of employment was September 24, 2019. His position is currently vacant. It was moved by Commissioner Truitt, seconded by Vice Chairman Robinson to authorize Fire Marshal Ingle to advertise, interview and hire for the vacant position of Deputy Fire Marshal IV. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Fire Marshal Ingle received a letter of resignation from Dawn Lynch after 3 years of employment as an Administrative Specialist I. She has accepted a position with another state agency. This position will become vacant on October 25, 2019. It was moved by Commissioner Truitt, seconded by Vice Chairman Robinson to authorize Fire Marshal Ingle to advertise, interview and hire for the vacant position of Administrative Specialist I. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

It was moved by Commissioner Truitt, seconded by Commissioner Betts to recognize the 25 Year Service Award of Dennett Pridgeon and 15 Year Service Award of David Wilson. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

SFPR Fire Marshal Report on Recommended Updates

In accordance with the 2015 Delaware State Fire Prevention Regulations, Regulation 701, Chapter 1, 4.0 Review and Updating of Regulations, Fire Marshal Ingle reviewed the Regulations and found that they were in order. Recommendations from the previous two years have not yet been scheduled for a public hearing and/or public comment period. Fire Marshal Ingle is recommending that in the first quarter of calendar year 2020 that these changes be scheduled for a public hearing and/or public comment period for suggested updates.

Delmarva Power – Smoke Alarms

Delmarva Power made a donation of smoke alarms again to the Delaware and Maryland State Fire Marshal's Offices on October 2, 2019. The City of Wilmington received carbon monoxide detectors. Delaware received approximately 1,000 smoke alarms. These will cover the events that the agency attend as well as provide smoke alarms for Deputies to carry and provide during fire investigations as needed. Fire Marshal Ingle reported that some fire departments have requested smoke alarms because of the donation from Delmarva Power. The Office of State Fire Marshal will assist where they can although they will not be able to give them large sums of smoke alarms with the limited resources that they have. They will give them what they are able and/or have available.

DTI – System Upgrades

DTI will be upgrading the service in the Georgetown office to 100 gigabytes to mirror the Dover office. The server in Dover will be upgraded to a terabyte in November. Numerous staff members have been assigned to attend training on October 28th – 29th for the new Fire Marshal Incident System that was place online in September, 2018.

Incidents of Interest

September 20, 2019 – Just after midnight Laurel Fire Department responded to a structure fire in the 33000 block Old Hickory Road. Upon arrival a vacant Farm House was found to be fully involved. The on-call Deputy Fire Marshal was requested to respond to the scene. The Deputy Fire Marshal's investigation is continuing. The origin and cause of the fire is undetermined at this time. Damage is estimated at \$15,000. No injuries were reported.

September 21, 2019 – Just after 9:00 PM Good - Will Fire Company was dispatched to a structure fire in the 200 block Brylgon Ave., Baldton, New Castle. On arrival smoke was showing and the occupants were exiting the structure after being alerted by a smoke detector. The firefighters began fire suppression operations, search and rescue and checking for extension. The on-call Deputy Fire Marshal was requested to make a response to the scene. The Deputy Fire Marshal determined the fire to be accidental caused by discarded smoking materials in a couch causing an estimated \$3,500 in damage.

September 24, 2019 – Just after 3:30 AM Elsmere Fire Company was dispatched to a structure fire in the 300 block Olga Road, Elsmere. On arrival the Fire Company had fire showing. Firefighter's began fire suppression activities and controlled the fire. The on-call Deputy Fire Marshal was requested to respond to the scene. The Deputy's investigation determined the fire was accidental caused by a malfunction in the exterior electrical wiring. Damage was estimated at \$15,000 to the occupied residence. Smoke detectors were present.

September 24, 2019 – Just after 5:30 PM Aetna Hose Hook & Ladder Co. was dispatched to a structure fire at the Fairfield Apartments off New London Rd., Newark. On arrival fire was showing from the third floor and roof area.

The Fire Co. began fire suppression operations. The on-call Deputy Fire Marshal was requested to respond to the scene. The Deputy Fire Marshal determined the fire had originated in a third floor apartment bedroom. The occupant lit a candle on the window sill that ignited flammable/combustible materials extending outside of the apartment into the attic and roof area causing heavy fire damage in excess of \$1 Million Dollars.

September 26, 2019 – Just after 11:00 PM Felton Fire Co. was dispatched to a structure fire in the unit block of Lake Forest Circle, Felton. On arrival the Fire Co. found a debris pile on fire that extended to a vacant structure. The Fire Co. started fire suppression operations extinguishing the fire. The on-call Deputy Fire Marshal was requested to respond to the scene. The Deputy Fire Marshal determined that a debris pile was intentionally set on fire and fire extended into a vacant structure causing damage in excess of \$7,000. The investigation is ongoing.

Incidents of Interest cont.

September 27, 2019 – Just after midnight Clayton Fire Co. was dispatched to a structure fire in the 1500 block Longridge Road, Clayton. On arrival of the first Engine fire was showing from a vacant dwelling. The firefighters began an offensive fire attack extinguishing the fire. The on-call Deputy Fire Marshal was requested to respond to the scene. The Deputy Fire Marshal conducted the investigation and determined the fire was intentionally set by unknown suspect(s) causing damage in excess of \$10,000. Investigation continues.

September 27, 2019 – Just before 6:30 AM Millsboro Fire Company was dispatched to a structure fire in the 26000 block Hollyville Road, Millsboro. On arrival of the first Engine smoke was showing from a chicken house. The firefighters began fire suppression operations extinguishing the fire. The on-call Deputy Fire Marshal was requested to respond to the scene. The Deputy Fire Marshal conducted an investigation into the origin and cause of the fire and determined the fire was accidental. The investigation revealed an electrical malfunction failure occurred in a tunnel fan causing damage to the poultry building in excess of \$10,000.

October 4, 2019 – Around 3:30 PM the Lewes Fire Department was dispatched for a structure fire in the 18000 block Joseph Road, Lewes. On arrival smoke was showing and the Fire Department performed fire suppression operations extinguishing the fire. The on-call Deputy Fire Marshal was requested to respond to the scene for an investigation. The Deputy Fire Marshal determined the fire was accidental caused by an electrical malfunction in a battery charger igniting nearby combustible material causing moderate damage in excess of \$10,000 to the structure.

October 4, 2019 - Just before 11:30 PM Laurel Fire Department was dispatched for a structure fire in the 32000 block Old Hickory Rd. Laurel. Upon arrival the Fire Department had an outbuilding involved in fire. The Fire Department performed fire suppression operations and requested the on-call Deputy Fire Marshal to respond to the scene. The origin and cause of the fire is undetermined at this time. The incident is under investigation with damage in excess of \$50,000.

Incidents of Interest cont.

October 10, 2019 – Just before 8:00 PM Leipsic Fire Company was dispatched to a commercial building fire in the 100 block of Denny Street. Upon arrival the first active engine had an active fire that was reported inside of the commercial building. Firefighters began their suppression operations and the on call Deputy Fire Marshal responded to the scene by request. The investigation by the Deputy revealed that the fire was accidental. It was caused by an unknown malfunction in an exhaust pipe on an operating propane heater going to some machinery and to a block cooker. It ignited nearby combustible material causing damage into the roof area with damage in excess of \$100,000.

October 11, 2019 – Just before 11:00 PM Mill Creek Fire Company was dispatched to a structural fire in the 1200 block of Arundel Drive. There were smoke and fire conditions present. The firefighters performed a fire suppression and the on-call Deputy Fire Marshal responded to the scene by request. The incident remains under investigation.

October 13, 2019 – Just after 8:00 PM Felton Fire Company was dispatched to mobile home fire in the 2800 block of Sandtown Road. Upon arrival of the first engine, it was determined that it was a vacant mobile home with fire showing. They began fire suppression and requested the on-call Deputy Fire Marshal. During the course of the investigation, the Deputy Fire Marshal determined that the fire was the result of a controlled burning within a fire pit. The fire extended outside of the fire pit to the vacant singlewide mobile home causing major damage in the amount of \$15,000. The incident remains under investigation.

DFIRS Incidents Received

TOTAL STATE PARTICIPATION IN COMPLIANCE			
89 %			
DELINQUENT DEPARTMENTS			
New Castle County			
Townsend		August	
Kent County			
Frederica		August	
Harrington		August	
Hartly		August	
Houston		August	
Little Creek		July & August	
Marydel		August	
Sussex County			
Ellendale		August	
Roxana		March - May	
OVERDUE REPORTS BY DAYS			
30 Days	60 Days	90 Days	90+ Days
7	1	0	1

Source: DFIRS Incidents received as of 10/2/19.

REPORT OF THE STATE FIRE SCHOOL DIRECTOR

Director

- Student Injury
 - NCD In-Service Structure – dizzy, transported
 - BFFS, Nose bleed, SCBA – treated and continued training
 - BFFS, SCBA, anxiety – transported to KGH, treated and released
 - BFFS, SCBA, knee injury (pre-existing), student pick-up up
 - BFFS, SCBA, chest pains, transported to KGH
 - BFFS, SCBA, knee, continued training
 - BFFS, SCBA, Heat stress, treated and continued training
 - HMRS, Liquid Evolutions, Heat stress, removed from training
- BFFS – Haz. Mat. Awareness Certification – 63 certified 72% pass rate, on line training
- Open Weekend at the National Fire Academy – 7 students registered from Delaware

- National Registry, elimination of age (18) requirement EMT, (16) EMR – Director Newnam reported that the DSFS staff recommends to keep the age requirements at age 18.

Commissioner Truitt asked how the age requirements of the DSFS reflect on EMS students at the VoTech Schools that offer EMS Certification. It is possible for a VoTech student to be required to wait a year or more if they have to wait until the age of 18 to test. They will now be eligible to test for the National Registry, but not for Delaware certification. A VoTech student is being vocationally trained in a specific area for a career. Students that are taking an EMS curriculum at St. George's and other schools are also getting a broad choice of education verses being so specific. Director Newnam stated that they can take the class, but not allowed to test until the age of 18. Director Newnam is opposed to them testing prior to the age of 18.

Chairman Roberts asked how old some of the students are? They can be 16 or 17 years of age at the completion of an EMS Class. He is concerned that making them wait so long for testing could be at their detriment. The likely hood of them passing without taking a refresher is low. Is there a benefit for allowing them to test, yet have a stipulation that they are not eligible to be a full EMT until the age of 18? He asked that Director Newnam find out why National Registry removed the age requirement and report that to the Commission.

DSFS has applied to become a testing site for the National Registry and are awaiting that approval. Will they test students under the age of 18?

Chairman Roberts is concerned that not following the requirements of the National Registry could hinder the recruitment of EMTs in Delaware. Director Newnam stated that Del Tech, VoTech students are currently sent to the DSFS for the practical skills portion of their training and they are required to be 18 years of age.

Bradley Gosch, American Legion 64 stated that his company receives several students from St. George's every year because they are required to ride with an ambulance company during their EMS Program. Of the students that they have supported, most only have a few months to wait before their 18th birthday. Mr. Gosch reported that every student that has come through their program has continued on and become an EMT. Most of them have maintained a membership with the company and one has gone to school to become a doctor.

Albert Schrack, DSEMSA recently met with St. George's with regard to their EMS Program. He was told that some students turn 18 years of age after they graduate and the school does not track them after graduation.

Chief Mark Harris, Claymont Fire Company stated that it is a shame for a student to be made to wait for testing when they are getting an education. Should it be looked into beginning a Field Training Program that they can work in until they can be released as a full acting EMT at 18 years of age? They could ride under the guidance of an FTO. We shouldn't discourage them. Director Newnam suggested that they become an EMR and at 18 years of age become an EMT.

Commissioner Marvel is concerned that some of these students will be left behind. Director Newnam stated that he is concerned with the failure rate. He's also concerned that they may not be psychologically prepared for what they will see in the streets as an EMT.

Commissioner Leonetti is concerned with the legalities of someone under the age of 18 acting as an EMT. Director Newnam will reach out to the schools and get student numbers and information to report back to the Commission.

Nicholas Baronie, Mill Creek Fire Company stated that these students could be looked at as junior members as done on the fire side. They could work as a supervised junior member until they are prepared and at the legal age of 18.

Robin Brown, OEMS and Minquadale Fire Company stated that she has been an EMS Trainer at the Fire School and done training through her Paramedic career. She discussed having exploratory kids that come into the program at 13 and 14 years old because they are exploring career opportunities. She would hate to lose that group that want to check things out because her experience has shown that all of those kids that she worked with are still working as EMTs today. She doesn't feel that the kids had any worse failure rate than the adults and she would hate to see us lose the spark that they have for the career path.

Commissioner Marvel feels that a program may need to be developed for the young adults that will address these concerns. A parent can sign off on a child as they do for junior members to explore opportunities.

Director Newnam will gather some information and report back to the Commission.

- DTI to upgrade Verizon TLS circuit - 100MB to 1G – cost increase to be split by FM & DSFS
- Public Budget Hearing scheduled for November 5, 1430 at Legislative Hall

Staff Activities

- S.C. Fire Educators Conf. – 09/18-21, Lowe
- Command Team Media Group Fallen Firefighters Weekend 10/2-6 Emmitsburg, Wilson
- Firehouse Expo – Nashville – Dempsey, Fox, Ingram

Programs/Courses

Figures in red are reference to last year's comparison of class attendance.

- Current Month
 - Phase V – Observation/Evolutions – 7 students
 - Aerial Operations – 17 students (*cancelled 2018*)
 - Vehicle Rescue – 40 students (40)
 - Driver Operator – 10 students (17)
 - RIT Advanced – 3 students (7)
 - Structural Fire Fighting Skills – 27 students (62)
 - Confined Space Rescue – 11 students (11)
 - Forestry (Basic and Advanced) *cancelled by Forestry Department* (14 in 2018)
 - Vehicle Rescue – 1 student (10)
 - Haz. Mat. Tech – 24 hr. – 27 students (9)
 - Basic Brigade Skills – 36 students (23)
 - EVO – Sussex Division – 10 students (14)
 - Industrial Confined Space Rescue – 12 students (21)
 - Healthcare Fire Safety – 2 students
 - Advanced Exterior Brigade – 7 student (8)
- Divisions Usage
 - New Castle, 15 (15) scheduled, Kent, 6 (10) scheduled, Sussex, 7 (4) scheduled
- Additions – Revisions

EMS

- Current Month
 - CEU programs – 5 programs scheduled (3)
 - Emergency Medical Responder – weekday Kent – 21 students (12)
 - Emergency Medical Responder Refresher – weekend – 6 students (3)

Public Education and Injury Prevention - Activity Report

- Current Month
 - Fire Safety Programs – 2 scheduled (5)
 - DSFS Tours – 23 scheduled (11)
 - Fire Safety Displays – 15 scheduled (13)
 - Injury Prevention Programs – 38 scheduled (34)
 - Injury Prevention Events – 3 scheduled (2)

Maintenance – Building and Grounds

- Bid opening for roof replacement – Nov. 18th
- Installed electric to Rescue (rope) Tower, lighting on each floor – solar powered

Financial

- Past Due Billings
 - 30 days – 4,460.00
 - 60 days – 6,500.00
 - 90 days – 75.00
 - 120 days – 26,195.00
- 20678 Tuition Fund – 761,099.00
 - Accounts receivable – 42,178.00
- Revenue Comparison
 - Tuition – 2019 – 43,590.00, 2018 – 26,684.00
- Special Funds Summary – The Special Funds Summary report was submitted to the Commissioners for review.
- Expenditure Report – The Expenditure report was submitted to the Commissioners for review.

Staff and Office Staff Meeting Minutes

Staff and office staff meeting minutes were submitted for Commission review.

Personnel Issues

- Maintenance Supervisor – interviews have been conducted.

Scheduled Activities

- Attending State Training Director's Briefing at the National Fire Academy Oct. 16-17th
- Annual leave – November 8th

REPORT OF THE BLS MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Dr. Matthews reported that influenza B flu has been diagnosed in each County. It's important that EMS personnel are encouraged to get vaccinated and follow infection control. We may trend as Australia did with an intense, yet short flu season.

REPORT OF THE INVESTIGATOR/COMPLIANCE OFFICER

8 Annual Ambulance Unit Inspections
0 New Unit Inspections
9 Complaints Received
7 Arrest Notifications were received.
1 Patient Care Issues
4 New Investigations
5 Open Cases from 2018
11 Open Cases from 2019

Prime Care Ambulance Company will be going out of business without the required 180 days' notice. They are currently working with Logisticare to transfer their current clients to existing companies.

REGULAR BUSINESS

ACTION ITEMS

Lydia Massey – Discussion of Code Update

Lydia Massey, Director of Boards and Commissions spoke to the commission regarding possible legislative updates. These updates will include rewording the current statute regarding Commissioner Appointments. These updates will bring the Fire Prevention Commission in line with other Boards and Commissions statewide.

Ambulance Regulation 710

Commissioners were provided with a copy of the draft 710 Ambulance Regulation for review. They will propose a hearing date at the regular November meeting.

Review Quarterly Scratch Reports – July, August, September

It was moved by Commissioner Marvel, seconded by Commissioner Truitt to send a letter to Greenwood Fire Company giving them notice that their quarterly scratch rate was high. Motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Consent Agreement – Case #1914

It was moved by Commissioner Truitt, seconded by Vice Chairman Robinson accept the Consent Agreement for Case # 1914. Motion carried by a roll call vote.

Commissioner Truitt -	Yes
Commissioner Marvel -	Yes
Commissioner Kelly -	Yes
Commissioner Leonetti -	Yes
Commissioner Betts -	No
Vice Chairman Robinson -	Yes
Chairman Roberts -	Yes

Consent Agreement – Case #1915

It was moved by Commissioner Truitt, seconded by Vice Chairman Robinson accept the Consent Agreement for Case # 1914. Motion carried by a roll call vote.

Commissioner Truitt -	Yes
Commissioner Marvel -	Yes
Commissioner Kelly -	Yes
Commissioner Leonetti -	Yes
Commissioner Betts -	No
Vice Chairman Robinson -	Yes
Chairman Roberts -	Yes

NEW BUSINESS

Working Group

Chairman Roberts proposed putting together a working group that will be composed of three Commissioners and three members appointed by the DVFA to discuss the possibility of expanding the authority of the Commission for additional oversight. Commissioner Kelly believes that this is one path to consider, because there has got to be a way to assist fire companies when they need it. The responsibility of all citizens weighs heavy on him. He agrees with the request of forming a working committee. It was moved by Chairman Roberts, seconded by Commissioner Leonetti to set up the working group to discuss possible future Fire Prevention Commission legislative updates. Motion carried by roll call vote.

Commissioner Truitt -	Yes
Commissioner Marvel -	Yes
Commissioner Kelly -	Yes
Commissioner Leonetti -	Yes
Commissioner Betts -	Yes
Vice Chairman Robinson -	Yes
Chairman Roberts -	Yes

GENERAL INFORMATION

None.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

None

It was moved by Commissioner Leonetti, seconded by Commissioner Truitt to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters. Motion was carried by a unanimous vote. The Commission entered into executive session at 11:15 a.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Commission exited Executive Session at 11:19 a.m.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Truitt

Commissioner Truitt reported that she attended the Monthly Commission Meeting, State Fire Police Meeting, DVFA Meeting, and DVFA Luncheon.

Commissioner Marvel

Commissioner Marvel reported that he attended the Monthly Commission Meeting, Kent County Meeting, Sussex Chiefs Meeting, Sussex Firefighters Meeting, Seaford Meeting, Sussex Callboard Meeting, and New Castle Firefighters Meeting.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

November 19, 2019 – 9:00 AM
Commission Chamber
Delaware Fire Service Center
1463 Chestnut Grove Road
Dover, DE 19904

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Commissioner Leonetti, and seconded by Vice Chairman Robinson that the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried by a unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 11:19 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry R. Lambertson

Sherry R. Lambertson
Executive Specialist

sl/